

**Amendments to the Drawings:**

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to FIG. 1. This sheet, which includes FIG. 1, replaces the original sheet. In FIG. 1, rail 40 is amended to include indexed positions A-G.

A marked-up version of the drawings, with revisions shown in red, is included with the amended drawings. Entry of the amended drawings is respectfully requested.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet  
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

REMARKS

Prior to entry of this Amendment, claims 1-16, 18, 20-38, 43 and 45-47 were pending in the present application. Claims 18, 46 and 47 are cancelled above. Claims 1, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 20 are amended above. New claims 48-50 are added above. No new matter is added by the amendments or new claims. Entry is respectfully requested.

The Applicant notes, with appreciation, that the Office Action indicates at page 8, paragraphs 3 and 4, that claims 43 and 45 are allowed and that claims 10 and 32 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form

The drawings are objected to for reasons stated in the Office Action. Specifically, the drawings are objected to because, according to the Office Action, the features of indexed positions and hinge from claims 10, 38, 43, 45 and 46 need to be shown in the drawings. The specification and FIG. 1 are amended above to illustrate the feature of indexed positions. No new matter is added by the amendments to the specification and drawings. With regard to the hinge of claim 38, examples of the hinge are provided in the drawings and specification as filed, at least at FIGs. 2, 3, 4A and 4B (see ball and socket joint 60, 62) and at FIG. 11 (see hinge 118). Claim 46 is cancelled above. It is therefore submitted that the objections to the drawings are addressed and overcome by the above amendments and remarks. Entry of the amendments and reconsideration of the objections are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5, 7-9, 11, 15-16, 18, and 47 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morad (U.S. Patent Number 6,190,749) in view of Kimbro (U.S. Patent Number 6,718,589). Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morad in view of Kimbro and further in view of Siemund, *et al.* (U.S. Patent Number 4,077,083). Claims 12-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morad in view of Kimbro and further in view of Hultstrum (U.S. Patent Number 3,433,510). Claims 20-26, 28-31 and 33-38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morad in view of Kimbro and Hultstrum and further in view of Newville (U.S. Patent Number

5,551,115). Claim 27 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morad in view of Kimbro, Hulterstrum and Newville and further in view of Siemund, *et al.* Claim 46 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Newville in view of Kimbro. Claims 46 and 47 are cancelled above. Reconsideration and removal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

In the present invention as claimed in independent claim 1, a mount includes an elongated body having a longitudinal axis, a curtain interface coupled to an upper surface of the body and a mounting member which includes an adjustable-length pole for mounting to a coupler. The mounting member includes a compression mechanism along a longitudinal axis thereof. The mounting member is of a sufficient length to be fixed between a first surface of a room and a second surface of a room. The compression mechanism is configured to urge the curtain interface toward one of the first surface and the second surface of the room when under compression between the first and second surfaces of the room to retain the mounting member and body in a fixed position relative to the first and second surfaces of the room.

In the present invention as claimed in independent claim 20, a mounting system includes an adjustable-length pole which includes a compression mechanism to allow for compression along a longitudinal axis thereof. The mounting system further includes an elongated body having a longitudinal axis. The adjustable-length pole is of a sufficient size to be fixed between a first surface of a room and a second surface of a room. The compression mechanism is configured to urge the curtain interface toward one of the first surface and the second surface of the room when under compression between the first and second surfaces of the room to retain the adjustable-length pole and body in a fixed position relative to the first and second surfaces of the room.

Morad discloses a sponge mop with a mop handle 9. It is stated in the Office Action at page 4, lines 7-9, that Morad fails to teach the mounting pole including a compression mechanism along a longitudinal axis thereof.

Morad fails to teach or suggest a mount that includes “a mounting member” which includes “an adjustable-length pole”, “the mounting member including a compression mechanism along a longitudinal axis thereof, the mounting member being of a sufficient length to be fixed between a first surface of a room and a second surface of a room, the compression mechanism configured to urge the curtain interface toward one of the first surface and the second surface of the room when under compression between the first and second surfaces of the room to retain the mounting member and body in a fixed position relative to the first and second surfaces of the room”, as claimed in independent claim 1. Instead in Morad, the handle 9 does not include a compression mechanism. In addition, the sponge mop with the handle 9 would not be of “a sufficient length to be fixed between a first surface of a room and a second surface of a room”. The sponge mop disclosed in Morad is not of sufficient length for mounting the mop in this manner.

In addition, Morad fails to teach or suggest a mounting system that includes an “adjustable-length pole” that includes “a compression mechanism to allow for compression along a longitudinal axis thereof” and “is of a sufficient length to be fixed between a first surface of a room and a second surface of a room, the compression mechanism configured to urge the curtain interface toward one of the first surface and the second surface of the room when under compression between the first and second surfaces of the room to retain the adjustable-length pole and body in a fixed position relative to the first and second surfaces of the room”, as claimed in independent claim 20. Instead in Morad, the handle 9 does not include a compression mechanism. In addition, the sponge mop with the handle 9 would not be of “a sufficient length to be fixed between a first surface of a room and a second surface of a room”. The sponge mop disclosed in Morad is not of sufficient length for mounting the mop in this manner.

Kimbrow discloses a push broom. The push broom includes a brush head 11, a handle with linear sections 15 and 16 and a compression spring which allows the sections of the handle of the push broom to expand with respect to one another when there is no load placed on the handle or at least a partial load. The compression spring reduces energy needed from the user and creates a much softer and smoother motion during a sweeping procedure.

Like Morad, Kimbro fails to teach or suggest a mount that includes “a mounting member” which includes “an adjustable-length pole”, “the mounting member including a compression mechanism along a longitudinal axis thereof, the mounting member being of a sufficient length to be fixed between a first surface of a room and a second surface of a room, the compression mechanism configured to urge the curtain interface toward one of the first surface and the second surface of the room when under compression between the first and second surfaces of the room to retain the mounting member and body in a fixed position relative to the first and second surfaces of the room”, as claimed in independent claim 1. While Kimbro discloses a compression spring, the handle of the push broom would not be of “a sufficient length to be fixed between a first surface of a room and a second surface of a room”. The push broom disclosed in Kimbro is not of sufficient length for mounting the mop in this manner. In addition, the compression spring of Kimbro is in no way configured to fix the brush head 11 and handle with linear sections 15 and 16 “between a first surface of a room and a second surface of a room, whereby the compression mechanism is compressed when the pole and body are mounted to retain the pole and body in the fixed position”. Rather, in Kimbro, the compression spring is used to reduce energy exerted by a user in a sweeping procedure.

In addition, like Morad, Kimbro fails to teach or suggest a mounting system that includes an “adjustable-length pole” that includes “a compression mechanism to allow for compression along a longitudinal axis thereof” and “is of a sufficient length to be fixed between a first surface of a room and a second surface of a room, the compression mechanism configured to urge the curtain interface toward one of the first surface and the second surface of the room when under compression between the first and second surfaces of the room to retain the adjustable-length pole and body in a fixed position relative to the first and second surfaces of the room”, as claimed in independent claim 20. While Kimbro discloses a compression spring, the handle of the push broom would not be of “a sufficient length to be fixed between a first surface of a room and a second surface of a room”. The push broom disclosed in Kimbro is not of sufficient length for mounting the mop in this manner. In addition, the compression spring of Kimbro is in no way configured to fix the brush head 11 and handle with linear sections 15 and 16 “between a first surface of a room and a second surface of a room, whereby the compression mechanism is

compressed when the pole and body are mounted to retain the pole and body in the fixed position”. Rather, in Kimbro, the compression spring is used to reduce energy exerted by a user in a sweeping procedure.

Neither Morad nor Kimbro teaches or suggests the present invention as claimed in independent claim 1. Accordingly, it is submitted that the combination of Morad and Kimbro fails to teach or suggest the invention as claimed in independent claim 1. Reconsideration of the rejection of and allowance of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morad and Kimbro are respectfully requested. With regard to the dependent claims 2-5, 7-9, 11, 15, 16, and 18, it follows that these claims should inherit the allowability of the independent claim from which they depend.

With regard to the rejection of claim 6, Siemund, *et al.* discloses a retainer for a sponge rubber mop. Siemund, *et al.*, like Morad and Kimbro, fails to teach or suggest a mount that includes “a mounting member” which includes “an adjustable-length pole”, “the mounting member including a compression mechanism along a longitudinal axis thereof, the mounting member being of a sufficient length to be fixed between a first surface of a room and a second surface of a room, the compression mechanism configured to urge the curtain interface toward one of the first surface and the second surface of the room when under compression between the first and second surfaces of the room to retain the mounting member and body in a fixed position relative to the first and second surfaces of the room”, as claimed in claim 6.

None of Morad, Kimbro and Siemund, *et al.* teaches or suggests the present invention as claimed in claim 6. Accordingly, it is submitted that the combination of Morad, Kimbro and Siemund, *et al.* fails to teach or suggest the invention as claimed in claim 6. Reconsideration of the rejection of and allowance of claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morad, Kimbro and Siemund, *et al.* are respectfully requested.

With regard to the rejection of claims 12-14, Hulterstrum discloses a brush structure with a swivel joint. Hulterstrum is cited in the Office Action as teaching a ball and socket joint.

Hulterstrum fails to teach or suggest a mount that includes “a mounting member” which includes “an adjustable-length pole”, “the mounting member including a compression mechanism along a longitudinal axis thereof, the mounting member being of a sufficient length to be fixed between a first surface of a room and a second surface of a room, the compression mechanism configured to urge the curtain interface toward one of the first surface and the second surface of the room when under compression between the first and second surfaces of the room to retain the mounting member and body in a fixed position relative to the first and second surfaces of the room”, as claimed in claims 12-14.

None of Morad, Kimbro and Hulterstrum teaches or suggests the present invention as claimed in claims 12-14. Accordingly, it is submitted that the combination of Morad, Kimbro and Hulterstrum fails to teach or suggest the invention as claimed in claims 12-14. Reconsideration of the rejection of and allowance of claims 12-14 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morad, Kimbro and Hulterstrum are respectfully requested.

With regard to the rejection of claim 20, like Morad and Kimbro, as discussed above, Hulterstrum fails to teach or suggest a mounting system that includes an “adjustable-length pole” that includes “a compression mechanism to allow for compression along a longitudinal axis thereof” and “is of a sufficient length to be fixed between a first surface of a room and a second surface of a room, the compression mechanism configured to urge the curtain interface toward one of the first surface and the second surface of the room when under compression between the first and second surfaces of the room to retain the adjustable-length pole and body in a fixed position relative to the first and second surfaces of the room”, as claimed in independent claim 20.

Newville discloses a brush assembly 10 which includes a tubular handle 12 and a brush head 14. Newville is cited in the Office Action as teaching a coupler limiting lateral rotation of the body relative to the pole, while permitting rotation of the body relative to the pole in another direction of rotation.

Like Morad, Kimbro and Hultstrum, Newville fails to teach or suggest a mounting system that includes an “adjustable-length pole” that includes “a compression mechanism to allow for compression along a longitudinal axis thereof” and “is of a sufficient length to be fixed between a first surface of a room and a second surface of a room, the compression mechanism configured to urge the curtain interface toward one of the first surface and the second surface of the room when under compression between the first and second surfaces of the room to retain the adjustable-length pole and body in a fixed position relative to the first and second surfaces of the room”, as claimed in independent claim 20.

None of Morad, Kimbro, Hultstrum and Newville teaches or suggests the present invention as claimed in independent claim 20. Accordingly, it is submitted that the combination of Morad, Kimbro, Hultstrum and Newville fails to teach or suggest the invention as claimed in independent claim 20. Reconsideration of the rejection of and allowance of claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morad, Kimbro, Hultstrum and Newville are respectfully requested. With regard to the dependent claims 21-26, 28-31 and 33-38, it follows that these claims should inherit the allowability of the independent claims from which they depend.

With regard to the rejection of claim 27, like Morad, Kimbro, Hultstrum and Newville, as discussed above, Siemund, *et al.* fails to teach or suggest a mounting system that includes an “adjustable-length pole” that includes “a compression mechanism to allow for compression along a longitudinal axis thereof” and “is of a sufficient length to be fixed between a first surface of a room and a second surface of a room, the compression mechanism configured to urge the curtain interface toward one of the first surface and the second surface of the room when under compression between the first and second surfaces of the room to retain the adjustable-length pole and body in a fixed position relative to the first and second surfaces of the room”, as claimed in claim 27.

None of Morad, Kimbro, Hultstrum, Newville and Siemund, *et al.* teaches or suggests the present invention as claimed in claim 27. Accordingly, it is submitted that the combination



of Morad, Kimbro, Hulterstrum, Newville and Siemund, *et al.* fails to teach or suggest the invention as claimed in claim 27. Reconsideration of the rejection of and allowance of claim 27 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morad, Kimbro, Hulterstrum, Newville and Siemund, *et al.* are respectfully requested.

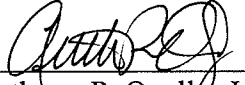
Closing Remarks

It is submitted that all claims are in condition for allowance, and such allowance is respectfully requested. If prosecution of the application can be expedited by a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the number given below.

Authorization is hereby given to charge Deposit Account No. 501798 for any additional fees which may be due or to credit any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,

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